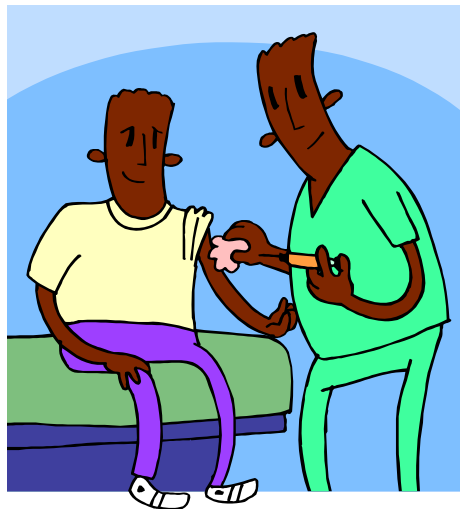


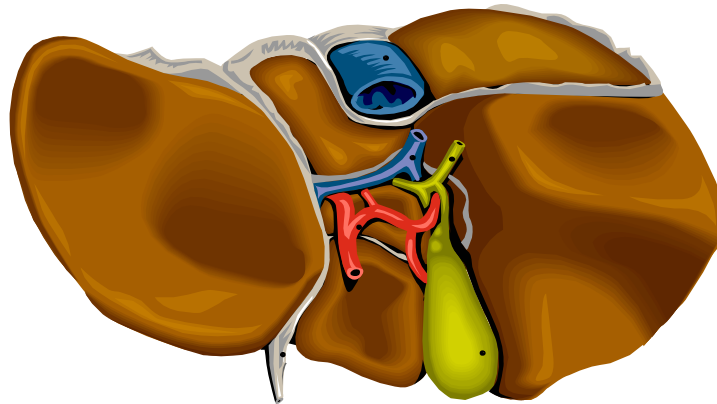
Hepatitis A, B, and C

What you need to know



What are hepatitis A, B, & C ?

- ◆ Viruses that infect the liver
- ◆ Cause inflammation of the liver
- ◆ Can lead to major liver damage and even death





How is hepatitis A virus spread?



Through close person to person contact or swallowing of contaminated food or water

- ◆ Using street drugs
- ◆ Having sex with an infected person
- ◆ Living with someone who is infected



How is hepatitis B virus spread?



Through contact with infected blood or
having sex with an infected person

- ◆ Having multiple sex partners
- ◆ Having unprotected sex
- ◆ Sharing needles or works when shooting drugs or getting tattoos/piercings

How is hepatitis C virus spread ?

Through contact with blood of an infected person

- ◆ Receiving a blood transfusion before 1992
- ◆ Having unprotected sex with an infected person
- ◆ Sharing needles or works when shooting drugs or getting tattoos/piercings



Is hepatitis A serious?

YES!

- ◆ Can cause serious illness for several months
- ◆ Can cause death in people with liver damage

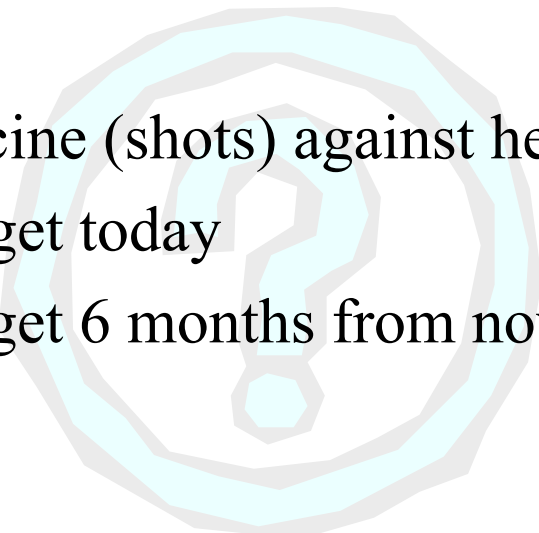
Very common among injection drug users
Hepatitis A can be prevented!





What should I do?



- 
- ◆ Get the vaccine (shots) against hepatitis A
 - ✓ **Dose 1**, get today
 - ✓ **Dose 2**, get 6 months from now

Are hepatitis B & C serious?

YES!

- ◆ Both can cause serious liver damage
 - ✓ Cirrhosis (scarring of the liver)
 - ✓ Liver cancer
- ◆ Both can result in the need for a liver transplant or in death



What should I do?

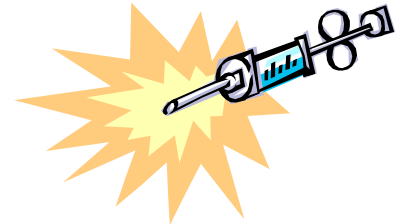
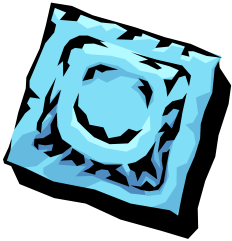
- ◆ Get the vaccine (shots) against hepatitis B
 - ✓ **Dose 1**, get today
 - ✓ **Dose 2**, in one month
 - ✓ **Dose 3**, three months later
- ◆ It's free!



How do I keep myself safe?

- ◆ Don't share needles, syringes, & works
- ◆ Wash your hands before and after injecting drugs

- ◆ Practice safer sex
- ◆ Use latex condoms
- ◆ Limit your number of sex partners

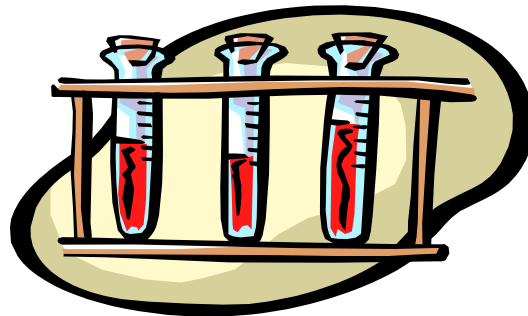


- ◆ Make sure needles used for tattooing or piercing are clean and not reused



What should I do?

- ◆ Get vaccinated against hepatitis A & B
- ◆ Get tested for hepatitis C



What if my test is positive?

- ◆ Get vaccinated against hepatitis A & B
- ◆ Contact health care provider
- ◆ Consider drug and/or alcohol treatment

